gms. per head per month with reference to population as on 1.10.1986. This has been changed from 1.1.1996 changing the population reference from 1986 to 1991 census. Prior to 1.1.96 the allocation for Maharashtra and Gujarat were 29960 and 16227 tonnes per month respectively. After 1.1.1996 it is 33550 and 17557 tonnes per month respectively. Allocation of kerosene oil to States/UTs is made in accordance with the principle under which the States having per capita availability of kerosene oil less than the National average, are given priority in increased allocation. Gujarat and Maharashtra have been given 1% increase each in allocation during 1996—97 over the year 1995—96. Accordingly the allotment for these States during 1995—96 and 1996—97 are as follows:

(in MTS)

States	1995-96	1996-97
Maharashtra	1527649	1542924
Gujarat	806278	814341

The allocation of other Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities like foodgrains, imported edible oil and soft coke are made after taking into account various factors like procurement, availability in the Central Pool, inter-se requirements of States/UTs, past trends of off-take, etc.

Fraud by Jewellery Exporters

772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain jewellery exporters had been recently found involved in a massive fraud in misappropriating gold worth over 20 crore under the jewellery export promotion scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the fraud stating whether any officials are involved in the racket; and

(d) action taken by Government against those involved in the fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No. Sir, However, instance of default in export of gold jewellery by the exporters have come to light in respect of supply of gold by MMTC under the gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme.

(c) and (d) Government has constituted in Inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of Commissioner of Customs, Delhi to take Coordinated action against exporters of gold jewellery who commit irregularities under the scheme for supply of gold by MMTC and refer them to the concerned agencies for expeditious action against the defaulters. To reduce the incidence of misuse by the exporters, the Govt. has made a few changes in the Hand Book of Procedures. Period allowed for exports has been reduce from 120 days to 60 days on gold supplied on loan and 90 days on outright purchase basis. The jewellery Units in EPZs/EOU complexes are required to furnish bank guarantee on graded scales from 10% to 100% depending upon the export performance.

Wage Revision and Implementation of New DA Formula in CPSUs

773. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in more than sixty CPSUs wage revision and implementation of new DA formula are still pending;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a continuous erosion of skilled manpower from these PSUs as a result of this delay;

(c) whether Government have intervened to ensure immediate wage revision and implementation of new DA formula to avoid industrial unrest; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises in 1993, the Central Public Sector Enterprises have already been authorised to conclude the long term wage settlements with their workers' unions and implement them.

इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि

774. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय के बजट आवंटन में वृद्धि करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस्पात के और अधिक उत्पादन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जाने का विचार है?

इस्पात मंत्री और खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) उपरोक्त (क) को मद्देनजर रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) सरकार ने देश में इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं। सरकारी क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्रों के आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार संबंधी कार्यक्रम शुरू गए किए हैं। निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात के उत्पादन की अतिरिक्त क्षमता सृजित करने की सुविधा के लिए तथा इसे प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सरकार ने भी विभिन्न नीतिगत उपाय किए हैं। ये उपाय निम्नानुसार हैं:—

(1) सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची से लोहा और इस्पात को निकालना।

(2) लोहा तथा इस्पात उद्योग को अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग के प्रावधानों से छूट देना।

(3) विदेशी निवेश के प्रयोजन से लोहा और इस्पात को उच्च प्राथमिकता प्राप्त उद्योगों की सूची में शामिल करना।

(4) लोहा और इस्पात के मूल्य-निर्धारण और वितरण पर से नियन्त्रण समाप्त करना ।

(5) पूंजीगत माल के आयात पर शुल्क को कम करना।

(6) आयात एवं निर्यात नीति का उदारीकरण।

Negative List for MNCs

775. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government is drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 27th June, 1996, under the caption "Negative list for MNCs may be extremely narrow"; and

(b) if so, whether the list has since been drawn up and by when it will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, no such list has been drawn up so for.

National Commission for Minorities

776. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awere that the National Commission for Minorities is functioning without sufficient number of members;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill up these posts;

(c) the number of reports submitted by the National Commission for Minorities during last two years and how many of them have been accepted by Government; and

(d) what is total amount provided for this Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) With the